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## **M-24 Funding Must Have Priority Status**

*Gilbert Working with Administration to Ensure Driver Safety*

(LANSING) – Despite Gov. Granholm’s recent veto of 34 Michigan road construction projects, Sen. Jud Gilbert announced today he will continue to work with the administration to press for the priority completion of the cancelled M-24 road project.

“Due to its proximity to metro Detroit and Flint, Lapeer County is one of the fastest growing areas in our state,” Gilbert, R-Algonac, said. “Lane expansion of this specific section of M-24 is crucial to traffic flow, commercial growth and motorist safety in our area. It is my sincere hope that we can still convince the governor to reverse her decision on this project.”

One of only two Lapeer County projects included in MDOT’s most recent Five Year Highway and Bridge Program, the M-24 lane addition would stretch from the southern county line to Interstate 69.

Local officials have identified M-24 expansion as a priority in their discussions with MDOT for two decades. Its inclusion in the Five Year Plan gave hope to local citizens and businesses that this nine mile stretch would soon be brought up to the level of quality necessary to meet increasing traffic demands.

“I would like the residents of Lapeer County to rest assured that I am working as hard as I can to ensure that M-24 is given priority status by the administration,” Gilbert said. “There are numerous safety and commerce issues that are present in this project. Its completion is one of my top priorities.”

Gov. Granholm recently vetoed funding that would have restored funding to 34 scheduled road projects across the state, including M-24. Immediately proceeding her veto, Granholm said she would evaluate the projects on a case-by-case basis and determine their importance.